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FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

The Montana State University 1963 Distinguished Service Alumni will be presented to four men at the traditional Homecoming singing-on-the-steps at Main Hall Friday at 7:15 p. m., according to Paul J. Chumrau, Missoula, president of the MSU Alumni Association.

Selected to receive the highest honor that their fellow alumni can bestow are lawyers Alva C. Baird, '16, and James W. Dorsey, '22; businessman Morris H. McCollum, '23, and journalist Vern Haugland, '31.

Baird, who has practiced law in Los Angeles, Calif., since 1943, was born in Stevensville and was graduated from high school there in 1912 and from the University in 1916. After World War I service with the field artillery in France and the army of occupation in Germany he returned to the University to take a law degree in 1920.

For the next five years Baird practiced in Missoula and served successively as deputy county attorney under Dwight Mason and John Campbell. He joined the legal staff of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Washington, D. C., in 1925 and remained with the bureau in various capacities until he entered private practice in Los Angeles. For six years before leaving federal service he was in charge of BIR trial attorneys for the eight western states.

Baird is a member of the American Bar Association Committee on Taxation and of the Legal Professional Panel at the University of Southern California. He has lectured at tax forums sponsored by the Title Insurance and Trust Co. and at tax institutes at USC and MSU. He is a past president of the Exceptional Children's Foundation and is active in other civic affairs.

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Baird and his wife, the former Mattie Morris of Potomac, have two sons and a daughter. His son Thomas is a 1953 graduate of the MSU Law School and a member of the Los Angeles law firm of Baird and Holley.

Dorsey, a Missoula native who lettered in football at the University, received a degree in psychology in 1922 and a degree in law in 1927. He was admitted to the Wisconsin bar in 1928.

The Milwaukee attorney was the first president of the Catholic Interracial Council of Milwaukee. He received the Y Men's Club award in 1951, and in 1957 he shared the James J. Hoey Award for Interracial Justice with George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO. The following year he was the Catholic recipient of the B'nai B'rith Award in the Field of Interracial Justice.

Dorsey was a member of the Governor's Commission on Human Rights for Wisconsin from 1945 to 1958, serving as commission chairman for two years. During the same period he was a member of the Advisory Committee of the Fair Employment Division of the Industrial Commission of Wisconsin. He is a member and a past president of the Milwaukee Chapter of the N.A.A.C.P., and he has served on the Speakers Bureau of the Holy Name Society of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee for 30 years.

Dorsey is married to the former Vivian Brooke of Billings. Their daughter Virginia, a graduate of Marquette University, is married to MSU alumnus Naseby Rhinehart Jr., Great Falls.

McCollum, as manager of the student store at MSU, has been the motive power behind a vital campus nerve center for 30 years. He began operation of the store the month after he received a bachelor's degree in economics in June 1923. The store was then located in the YMCA building that had served army trainees during World War I.

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After baseball was dropped as a varsity sport in the 1930's, McCollum organized teams and served as coach and manager to keep the game going on campus. His University Store team won the Missoula City League title in 1932 and also won titles in Montana State League play.

McCollum is a charter member of the MSU chapter of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and was chapter adviser from 1924 to 1937. He has been unofficial adviser and mentor to generations of MSU students.

Many of the more than 1,000 students who have in large part financed their education by working at the student store will be in Missoula to honor their benefactor at "Mac's Night," a Homecoming event scheduled Saturday at 6 p. m. at the Florence Hotel.

Haugland, aviation specialist for the Associated Press, was born at Litchfield, Minn. After earning a journalism degree at MSU he worked on the Daily Missoulian and Sentinel and the Montana Standard, Butte, before joining the AP at Salt Lake City in 1936.

As an AP war correspondent assigned to the Southwest Pacific he was reported missing Aug. 12, 1942, when the military transport in which he was flying crashed in New Guinea. Haugland and the crew parachuted from 13,000 feet and landed uninjured in the rugged, uninhabited Owen Stanley Mountains. All the crew members but one reached safety within a few days, but Haugland wandered for 43 days in the jungle before he was rescued by missionaries.

The reporter's survival saga thrilled the nation and brought him unprecedented military honors. He was decorated with the Silver Star by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, becoming the first civilian to receive the medal. Later he was made one of the few civilian members of the Army & Navy Union.

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When Haugland joined the AP in 1936, he said his goal was "to write interesting-ly about interesting things." As aviation specialist for AP, writing about man's efforts to conquer space, he is doing just that.

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